The Kohler Woman's Club presents

The Leslie Bell Singers

distinguished ensemble of the

Canadian Network under the

direction of **Dr. Leslie R. Bell**

in recital at 8 o'clock,

Wednesday, October 22, 1952

The Kohler Recreation Hall

PROGRAM NOTES

MUSIC FOR WORSHIP AND SPIRITUALS

Art owes an incalculable debt to religion. For countless centuries man has used literature, music, painting, and architecture as a means of expressing devotion to his Maker and in so doing has realized his greatest artistic triumphs. The following works are contrasting examples of the contributions made by the churches of Western civilization.

Battle Hymn of the Republic.....*Howe-Steffe*

The exact origin of this fine melody is somewhat uncertain. Various words have been written for it but those of Julia Ward Howe published in 1862 are the best. Canadians and people of other lands consider the *Battle Hymn* one of the greatest songs ever to come out of the United States.

Populе Meus, Quid Feci Tibi?.....*Vittoria* (1535-1611)
Let All the Nations Praise the Lord.....*Leisring*

Both of these works utilize antiphonal singing which requires that the chorus be divided into two groups. The employment of a hidden choir for echo effects is an old device in church music. It has been suggested that it originated in the attempt to represent the sound of the heavenly host singing to people on earth.

Kyrie, from "Missa Alma Pater".....*Gregorian* (11th Century)
Alleluia, from "Exultate".....*Mozart* (1756-1791)

These two examples of Roman Catholic music were written 700 years apart. The simple unison plainsong of the *Kyrie* is in decided contrast to the ornate *Alleluia* of Mozart which places emphasis more on vocal display than upon religious fervor.

Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child.....*Negro*
Dry Bones.....*Spirituals*

The Spiritual is an example not of traditional liturgy but of the simple song of faith of the American Negro. Sometimes the Negro's song is deeply melancholy as he broods upon the sins of this earth; at other times it is hysterically joyous as he gazes upward towards the heaven to come.

INTERMISSION

SONGS OF NORTH AMERICA

The discovery of thousands of wonderful folk songs among the rural peoples of this continent and the creation of strong original melodies by urban composers both prove that North America can boast of a legacy of song as vital and individual as that of Europe.

Rhapsody on Newfoundland Folk Songs.....*Bell*

The folk-music of Newfoundland, Canada's newest province, is all too little known. Cut off from the rest of the world by a rocky, twisted coastline and an uninhabited interior, the Newfoundlanders have learned to entertain themselves and a frequently recurring theme is that of the sea and its place in the lives of the fishermen. Several of these melodies were discovered by Dr. Bell when visiting Newfoundland in 1947.

A la Claire Fontaine.....}*French Canadian*
Youppe, Youppe sur la Riviere.....}*Folk Songs*

The French Canadians, a strongly nationalistic people, have lived in relative isolation and have developed their own songs which number in the thousands. The popularity of *A la Claire Fontaine* in Quebec stands second only to that of *Alouette. Youppe, Youppe* is also a great favorite.

Red Rosy Bush.....*American Folk Song*

For sheer, simple beauty no melodies can equal those of the American hills and plains. Songs such as *Red Rosy Bush* may have originated in Europe but they have undergone changes through the years which give them a truly American flavor. The soloist, Joyce Sullivan, is a well known figure on Canadian radio and television networks.

All the Things You Are.....*Kern*
Country Style.....*Van Heusen*

No apology is offered for including American popular music on this program. American popular songs have had a profound influence on the culture of the whole world and are an important contribution to music. The strength and individuality of *All the Things You Are* gives it the quality of a fine art song. *Country Style* is an example of the Western influence which has played such a great part in American music.

INTERMISSION

MUSIC OF MANY MOODS

The following numbers are selected from the vast repertoire which the Leslie Bell Singers have presented on their weekly radio and television network broadcasts and which also have found particular favor with Canadian audiences.

Beau Soir ..... *Debussy*

Debussy's understanding of the female voice is revealed in such sensitive writing as that of *Beau Soir.* In this arrangement the original piano accompaniment is incorporated into the choral line as a vocalise.

Eriskay Love Lilt ..... } *Hebridean*
A Road to the Isles ..... } *Songs*

These two songs are from the famous Scottish collection of Marjory Kennedy Fraser. The fact that a large number of Canadians are of Scottish origin makes such melodies immensely popular in Canada.

Le Fiacre ..... *Sablon*

Here, sung in French, is the story of a coquettish young wife who had a rendezvous in a coach but was discovered by her jealous husband. The voice of the coachman and the clopping of the horses' hoofs form a vivid part of the arrangement.

The Old Songs ..... *Bell*

This number serves to introduce the Leslie Bell Girls' Quartet, a new unit which is meeting with great success on its own in Canadian radio.

Medley

As a finale the Leslie Bell Singers present a medley of the best known works of Richard Rodgers, contemporary American composer. Rodgers' name is particularly associated with such famous successes as "Oklahoma" and "South Pacific."

THE PROGRAM

MUSIC FOR WORSHIP AND SPIRITUALS

Battle Hymn of the Republic..... *Howe-Steffe*

1

Populo Meus, Quid Feci Tibi?..... *Vittoria*
Let All the Nations Praise the Lord..... *Leisring*

Kyrie, from "Missa Alma Pater"..... *Gregorian*
Alleluia, from "Exultate"..... *Mozart*

Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child..... } *Negro*
Dry Bones ..... } *Spirituals*

INTERMISSION

SONGS OF NORTH AMERICA

Rhapsody on Newfoundland Folk Songs..... *Bell*

A La Claire Fontaine..... } *French Canadian*
2 Youppe, Youppe sur la Riviere..... } *Folk Songs*

Red Rosy Bush..... *American Folk Song*
Soloist: Joyce Sullivan

All the Things You Are..... *Kern*
Country Style..... *Van Heusen*

INTERMISSION

MUSIC OF MANY MOODS

Beau Soir..... *Debussy*

Eriskay Love Lilt..... } *Hebridean*
3 A Road to the Isles..... } *Songs*

Le Fiacre..... *Sablon*

The Old Songs..... *Bell*

Medley..... *Rodgers*

Choral arrangements: Leslie R. Bell, M.A., Mus.D.
Gowns by Sherkin, Toronto
Makeup and Hair Styling: Walter Thornton, Canada
Recordings: RCA Victor

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